

The Heterodyne

Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING Wednesday November 9

Meetings Begin at 7pm at Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross
2731 N First St, San Jose (SW corner at Plumeria Dr)

November 9 Meeting at 7pm

**“ARRL and SCV Issues,
News, and Trends”
by Phil Steffora, K6TT
(SCV Section Manager)**

Bring Your ARRL & SCV Questions!

Elections for 2012 Officers and Directors

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
Silicon Valley Chapter
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive
(southwest corner) in San Jose.

Club Net

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at <http://www.wvara.org/net.html>.

Holiday Party

WVARA's Holiday Party be a potluck at our regular meeting location.

Tentative date: Wednesday, December 14



Jim K6EI/6 Working DX

Here's Jim's extended 1/4 wavelength whip that he used to work 4W6A in East Timor on 24.9 MHz in September. He didn't have a 12m resonator and I was in a hurry to make the contact, so he just connected multiple pieces of tubing that were in the back of the van and added a bit of wire to the top to get something close to a quarter wavelength. Not pretty, but it worked!

Wednesday November 9, 2011

Ballot for Elections of 2012 Officers and Directors

Put Check Mark Next to Candidate or Write In Candidate

Please Bring Ballot To Meeting

President	<i>Jim Peterson, K6EI</i>
	<i>Write In: _____</i>
Vice President	<i>John Glass, NU6P</i>
	<i>Write In: _____</i>
Secretary	<i>Scott Emery, AD6RY</i>
	<i>Write In: _____</i>
Treasurer	<i>Jon Kelley, K6WV</i>
	<i>Write In: _____</i>
Director 2012	<i>Rick Ibarra, WE6AAI</i>
	<i>Write In: _____</i>
Director 2012 - 2013	<i>Chuck Kamas, AD6CL</i>
	<i>Write In: _____</i>
Director 2012 - 2013	<i>Svend Jensen, KF6EMB</i>
	<i>Write In: _____</i>
Director 2012 - 2013	<i>Kevin Smith, KK6VF</i>
	<i>Write In: _____</i>

Legendary Spy Radio Donated Back to Rockwell Collins

Originally printed at <http://www.kcrg.com/news/business/Legendary-Spy-Radio-Donated-Back-to-Rockwell-Collins-100153114.html>

By Becky Ogann
August 6, 2010

CEDAR RAPIDS – An unheralded group of Vietnam War-era Army signals intelligence officers took a step into the daylight Friday to donate one of their favorite radios back to its manufacturer.

The 265th Radio Research Company used many radios in their service in Vietnam from 1967 to 1972, but the R-390A HF (high-frequency) receiver they donated to the Rockwell Collins museum was something special, they said.

"This has been a workhorse," said Doug Bonnot of Jonesboro, Tenn., the president of the Radio Research Company Veteran Group .



Collins R-390 HF Reciever

Photo by Cliff Jette

Bonnot said he doubted that there was anyone who worked in uniform for the Army Security Agency, Air Force Security Service, Naval Security group or Marine Radio Battalion who doesn't remember the R-390 HF receiver fondly.

The receiver was so capable that it was considered top secret, the veterans said. It is now a favorite of amateur radio operators, who sometimes pay to buy and restore them.

Bonnot said members of his unit worked long hours at the radios day-in and day-out monitoring communications. Potentially valuable radio intelligence was recorded and passed off to other specialists who could decode and translate them, Bonnot said.

“You were in a battle every day,” Bonnot said. “Your weapon is a radio, and your stock and trade is information the enemy put out over the radio.”

Lawrence Robinson, who oversees Rockwell Collins' corporate museum, said almost everything in the museum has been donated to the company. He thanked the group for the 1952-vintage radio, one of the earlier models produced.

The radios were designed by Collins Radio, now Rockwell Collins, and many were manufactured by the company in Cedar Rapids. Many were made by other companies under defense contracts. About 20,000 of the 55,000-plus R-390 HF receivers made came from Collins.

"The stories about this radio are legendary," Robinson said. "There are still urban legends circulating that there are old-timers deep in the bowels of these three-letter agencies still using them."

Robinson said the United States government shredded "literally thousands" of the radios, apparently to keep them out of the wrong hands when they were no longer needed.

Rockwell Collins has had a corporate museum since 1983 for its clients and employees.

In an experiment, Lawrence said the company is opening the museum to limited public tours beginning this month. Because of security requirements, they are open only to United States citizens. A passport or driver's license is needed to provide identification.

The volunteer-staffed museum includes such radio icons as a 1,000-watt transmitter used in the 1933 Antarctic expedition of Admiral Richard E. Byrd.

"The whole thing is a labor of love," Robinson said.

The tours will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays, and will leave promptly from the south entrance of the company's 120 building. Arrangements can be made by calling Robinson at 295-1698.

2011 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers

President: Jim Peterson, K6EI

Vice President: Bill Ashby, N6FFC

Secretary: Jeannett Pispisa, K6JZY

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Svend Jensen, KF6EMB

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Club URL: <http://www.wvara.org>

Speaker Committee:

Scott Emery, AD6RY

Jim Peterson, K6EI

Jon Kelley, K6WV

Phil Verinsky, W6PK

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WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)

Band	Frequency	PL	Status
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz	Operating
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz	Operating
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz	Operating
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz	Operating
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz	Operating

See You At The Meeting!